

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 15752 152227Z
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 PA-01 PRS-01
USIA-06 SS-15 NSC-05 /052 W
----- 017231 /20
R 152210Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9203

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, MX
SUBJECT: AEROMEXICO FAULTED FOR PARIS CRASH

1. EXCELSIOR, A LEADING MEXICO CITY DAILY, IN STRONG EDITORIAL PUBLISHED DECEMBER 13 BLAMED DECEMBER 11 CRASH OF AEROMEXICO FLIGHT 450 (DC-10) AT PARIS ON LINE'S DEFICIENT MAINTENANCE PROGRAM AND ACCUSED COMPANY'S MANAGEMENT OF IRRESPONSIBILITY. NEWS ARTICLE ON THE CRASH WHICH RAN THE PREVIOUS DAY STATED FLIGHT WAS OVER AN HOUR LATE DEPARTING MEXICO CITY DUE TO LANDING GEAR PROBLEM AND THAT LANDINGS AT BARCELONA AND MADRID WERE MUCH ROUGHER THAN NORMAL. THE NEW CREW WHICH TOOK THE FLIGHT ON TO PARIS APPRENTLY WAS NOT INFORMED OF THE PROBLEM AND ON LANDING AT ORLY THE GEAR FAILED. MIRACULOUSLY NO LIVES WERE LOST. EDITORIAL CALLED FOR MAINTENANCE IMPROVEMENTS AND MORE EFFICIENT SERVICE BY THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED AIRLINE, AS WELL AS A FULL AND COMPLETE INVESTIGATION OF THE ACCIDENT.

2. PRIVATE COMMENTS REGARDING POOR MAINTENANCE BY AEROMEXICO HAVE CIRCULATED IN THE PAST, BUT TO THE EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED AIRLINE HAS BEEN CRITICIZED PUBLICLY. TO DATE THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO THIS CRITICISM OR ANY ANNOUNCEMENT OF STEPS BEING TAKEN TO IMPROVE THE LINES MAINTENANCE PERFORMANCE. GIVEN FACT AEROMEXICO SERVES SIX AMERICAN CITIES, THE ACCUSATION OF DEFICIENCIES IN AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE IS CAUSE FOR CONCERN. FAA MAY WISH TO LOOK INTO THIS MATTER TO DETERMINE WHETHER

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 15752 152227Z

IT MAY HAVE APPROPRIATE AVENUE TO BRING ABOUT IMPROVE-

MENTS IN LINE'S MAINTENANCE PROGRAM.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS
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Draft Date: 15 DEC 1976
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Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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